

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204516

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ORIGIN SY-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO FBI

UNCLAS STATE 204516

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC (PRATAP, KOTAMRAJU)

SUBJECT: HARASSMENT OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL

1. THIS IS TO CONFIRM TELCON 8/17/76 WITH SPECIAL AGENT RON MCHARGUE. ON 8/17/76 RICHARD GOOKIN OF THE OFFICE OF PROTOCOL ADVISED HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY KOTAMRAJU PRATAP, POLITICAL COUNSELOR FOR THE INDIAN EMBASSY, WHO RELATED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ON AUGUST 13, 1976, PRATAP'S PRIVATE AUTOMOBILE WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN FRONT OF HIS RESIDENCE, 4902 BERKLEY STREET, BETHESDA, MARYLAND. ON AUGUST 16, 1976, HE NOTICED SMOKE EMANATING FROM HIS BASEMENT AND UPON INVESTIGATION, FOUND THAT THE SMOKE WAS COMING FROM A FOLD-AWAY BED WHICH WAS SMOLDERING AND GAVE OFF THE STRONG ORDER OF KEROSENE. PRATAP REPORTED THAT HE IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT BOTH OF THESE FIRES WERE THE WORK OF AN ARSONIST.

2. THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS WERE CONTACTED AND REPORTED THAT PRATAP HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A PREVIOUS ARSON ATTEMPT AND A BURGLARY.

3. THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE AND U.S. SECRET SERVICE WERE ADVISED OF THESE INCIDENTS AND WERE REQUESTED TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 204516

PROVIDE INCREASED PATROL COVERAGE IN THAT AREA IF POSSIBLE.

4. IT I REQUESTED THAT YOU INITIATE AN APPROPRIATE
INVESTIGATION AND KEEP THIS OFFICE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS
OF YOUR INVESTIGATION. KISSINGER

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